



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1873.

A letter from Washington says: "The Secretary of the Interior will send in a letter to Congress next month asking an appropriation of one million dollars, more or less, to supply deficiencies in the Indian service for the last fiscal year. Both Congress and the people will be apt to look upon this as rather a singular response to the cry for retrenchment, particularly as in the deficiency bill of March 3, 1873, there were inserted items to the amount of \$1,277,000 for deficiencies in the Indian service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873. In addition to this it is understood that an appropriation of another million will be asked to supply deficiencies for the present year."

The recent brilliant meteor was observed by Mr. Henry C. Halliwell on Christmas Eve, near his residence at Sandy Spring, Md., and is described in a letter to the Baltimore American. In the vicinity of Vienna and Fairfax Court House it was accompanied with a shock like a loud report. It seems probable that it descended to the earth somewhere in that neighborhood.

Wheeler's expedition party have established an observatory on Pike's Peak, 14,000 feet high. They are snowed in, but are provisioned for eight months, and in all probability will not be thawed out for five or six months. They have telegraphic communication with the Ohio and Denver Railroad, and report the weather observations daily to Washington.

Mr. Lloyd A. Williams died at his residence on Road street, in Georgetown, D. C., on Sunday, in the forty-second year of his age. The deceased, who was a native of Georgetown, was formerly chief engineer in the navy. He entered the naval service on the 16th of February, 1852, and his total sea service was eight years and five months.

The United States steamer Osage passed quarantine in New York yesterday, followed by the revenue cutter Grant. She did not stop in quarantine, and could not be boarded. She did not have the Virginia in tow. It is rumored that the latter sunk on the passage.

The Washington Star says that it is understood that Cabinet officers and other leading officials, and many prominent citizens of Washington, will dispense with intoxicating drinks in their New Year's hospitalities.

The Washington Republican says that Caleb Cushing voted for General Grant in Virginia last fall—his first and only vote in the State of his adoption—and his appointment will read, "Caleb Cushing, of Virginia," &c.

The President has approved the bill removing the political disabilities of E. J. Harvie, Thomas J. Boone and Daniel Trigg, of Virginia, and John H. Regan, of Texas.

The Lexington Gazette says: "It is rumored that our incoming Governor, Gen. Kemper, is soon to be united in marriage to a lady formerly of Rappahannock—now of Spotsylvania."

Col. D. S. Curtis, deputy for the National Grange, has just arrived in Richmond for the purpose of organizing the State Grange.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

The Valley Virginian states that the three bridges over North river, in the vicinity of Mt. Crawford, have been completed, and that the track laying on the Valley railroad is progressing gradually. The opinion is expressed that the entire road will be in running order during the month of January. The equipments will certainly be complete by early spring preparatory to the accommodation of the travel incident to that season. The road from Harrisonburg to Staunton is pronounced to be one of the best in the United States.

Elisha Pendleton, esq., of Norfolk, died suddenly in that city on the 26th of December. He was a native of Maine, but settled in Norfolk many years ago as a teacher, and afterwards became a successful merchant. He retired from business during the war, and subsequently filled the office of city register, much to the satisfaction of the community. After a blameless and exemplary life he was stricken down with apoplexy, at the age of seventy-five years.

The Norfolk Landmark warns the farmers of Virginia against the Patrons of Husbandry and their granges as "extraneous." "They are unnecessary in Virginia, alien to our habits of life, secret in their operations, and political in their action." It objects to the female feature of the organization. It tends "to unsex our women to a great degree." "Let the Virginia farmer pause before he follows after false gods and adopts alien institutions."

The village of Midway, Augusta county, is a lively little place, and has industrious farmers about it. There was shipped from that place to Richmond during the year 1873, 10,244 dozen eggs, 5,200 pound dried cherries, 15,000 pounds butter, 22,500 pounds buckwheat, 108 bushels chestnuts, 10,500 pounds dried apples, and untold quantities of other dried fruits. Well done for a village of twenty families and two stores.

The "Virginia" oyster cruiser, Captain Spotswood, has captured an "oyster pirate" on the Rappahannock, named the "J. B. Franklin," of Baltimore. Captain Charles Lewis, and turned him over to the State authorities at Urbana. Lewis is an old offender, and threatened to shoot the commander of the oyster navy, but didn't.

Some alarm has been occasioned in England by the peaceful revolution Mr. Arch is working in providing for the emigration of whole families of working people to this country. It is expected that ten thousand persons in families will leave England next Spring, under the auspices of Messrs. Arch and Clayton. The movement, if it should prove successful, will benefit both countries—in securing better treatment for those who remain in the old country and in giving good homes to those who settle in this country.

Our Spanish Relations.

[From the National Republican.]

The policy of the Government regarding our relations with Spain will soon assume such a distinctive and positive form as to prevent the possibility of a recurrence of the Virginia affair. Propositions will soon be submitted to Spain of such a character as to insure, in the event of their acceptance, peace and quiet upon the island of Cuba, either through a compromise between the insurgents and the Madrid Government or some equally effectual method. It is sufficient to add in this connection that the Government does not seek the annexation of the island, and that it will be satisfied with any arrangement which will free the United States from a constant possibility of a recurrence of the many unpleasant controversies which have occurred since the insurrection began.

No advances of any character have been received regarding the alleged intention of the Spanish Government to demand the return of the Virginia and a reparation for damages. While it is known that a strong feeling very naturally exists in Spain against the submission by Castelar to the requirements of the Plo-Fish report, it is also known that the Spanish authorities will patiently await the arrival of a new Minister from the United States before attempting, if they intend to attempt, to reopen the controversy.

It is not expected, however, that under any circumstances a demand for the return of the Virginia will be made. In the protocol the provision for the adjudication of her use is definitely made, and as Spain agreed without reservation to this provision, the United States will hold her strictly to the agreement. But if such a demand should be made, it will be instantly rejected.

The proceedings of the Spanish Admiralty Court held at Havana, which resulted in the condemnation of the Virginia as a naval prize or capture by the Spanish navy, have been superseded by the higher authority of the protocol, and will therefore be ignored in any future consideration of the question.

When Mr. Cushing arrives at Madrid in the capacity of a regularly accredited Minister from this Government, it is probable that the Spanish Government may open negotiations for the purpose of making a treaty between the two Governments, the provisions of which shall more positively define the authority of either Power to ascertain the character of vessels suspected to be engaged in illegal or filibustering expeditions. It is believed that Spain is ready now to accord to us permanently the right which has been conceded in the Virginia case, to determine in our own way any question arising from alleged violations of our regulations, laws, and to punish in our own way such persons as may be found to have fraudulently carried the American flag at the mast-head of any vessel during a voyage or expedition against the peace and authority of a friendly nation.

The main point to be settled by this proposed treaty is the treatment or punishment which shall be accorded to persons who may be captured in filibustering acts, as the members of the crew of the Virginia were. The laws of Spain now provide that they may be treated as pirates, while international law defines piracy to be the commission of acts of robbery or murder upon the high seas. It is evident, therefore, that the laws of Spain are at variance with established international law, and that while a vessel, such as the Virginia, may be intent upon an unfriendly act toward Spain, or any other treaty-making Power, she cannot be adjudged as a pirate, first, because her mission is unfriendly to one Power alone, and second, because her mission is not one of murder or robbery upon the high seas.

It will be seen that the question here presented will, when discussed with a view to the negotiation of a treaty, involve the consideration of the traditional policy of the United States against the Right of Search. Spain will probably insist that without the privilege on their part to exercise that right it is possible that filibustering expeditions may sail from ports of the United States to her great disadvantage and injury. The United States will maintain that unless a belligerent condition exists by the recognition of the Spanish Government, no authority to interfere with the sailing of vessels carrying the American flag can possibly be recognized, and that when such recognition of belligerency does exist, if the right of search is exercised, it must be at the risk of grave consequences by the Government which exercises it.

It must be apparent that it is impossible at this juncture to foreshadow anything more than the briefest and most general outline of the projected treaty; but the foregoing may be accepted as the basis upon which the two Governments will begin the negotiations.

SETTLING THE YEAR'S ACCOUNTS.—The 1st of January, now so near at hand, will be a summons to all to settle up the accounts of the year in more ways than one, but especially in regard to bills contracted and indebtedness incurred in every form. If a pays B the latter will be able to pay C, and so on a vast amount of liquidation may be effected. The following from an exchange is an example:

"We once heard a merchant say that one morning he paid out a ten dollar bill, and at night received the same bill back again. He was curious to trace the bill in the business of the day, and ascertained it had paid a hundred dollars' debt, and then it came back to him in the way of trade. We mention this little incident to show how much good may be done with a small sum of money in the payment of little debts. Much of the pressure of hard times would be removed if persons would act upon the resolution to discharge all small debts. It would need no inflation of the currency to do this. A few dollars sent out on their errand would accomplish it, and pay off a large sum by being thus kept in motion before it was stopped by some one who would look it up and pay it no more so the light of day. To do good money must be kept in active circulation, while the volume need not be so large as to make it plenty in every man's pocket."

FORREST ON THE FLAG.—Gen. N. B. Forrest has written a letter to a Memphis newspaper, under date December 15, in which he says:

"Within the last few days I have received a large number of letters from men who were prominent Confederate officers and soldiers, volunteering to the Secretary of War, through me, their services to fight for the 'old flag,' in case of a war with Spain. Being too much engaged to answer their letters separately, allow me to say, through the columns of your widely-circulated journal, that it is very gratifying to me to see upon the part of those who, like myself, fought against it, so earnest a disposition to fight for it, in case of a foreign war. As for myself, our civil war having closed, and having pledged allegiance to the Government, should she ever be involved in war with a foreign power, I should fight as hard for it as I could, as a Confederate soldier, struggling against it. As to those friends and old companions in arms who have written to me, I would say, I hope and believe there will be no war, owing to the wise policy adopted by the distinguished soldier now at the head of the Government; but should it come, let us show our loyalty to the flag by standing ready to strike down any hand against it."

SPECIE PAYMENTS.—Somebody has said "the best way to resume specie payments is to resume. Good enough! But many of our merchants, restaurateurs, and others have for weeks been paying out silver for currency, and what has become of it? Nobody returns it in exchange for merchandise, but if our dealers would provide themselves with a sufficiency of small silver coin—twenty-five, ten and five-cent pieces—and give them in exchange for three silver coin when offered for goods, it is thought much that is now uselessly hoarded would be thrown into circulation.—Wash. Chronicle.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the Times."

The statement of H. C. Fahnstock, of the New York house of Jay Cooke & Co., was filed yesterday. On September 18 he turned over all his assets to Joel Barlow Moorhead in trust for his creditors. The statement shows there are four parties who are to be paid in full, secured by priority, three of whom are of Harrisburg and one—S. H. Hubbard—of New York; total about \$4,000. The interest on bonds amounts to over \$24,000, and the cash on hand over \$500,000, but it is not available, being deposited with Jay Cooke & Co.; bills of exchange, promissory notes and securities, over \$10,000; personal property, \$2,000; notes in action, stocks, &c., \$200,000.

The Menomonees who recently visited this country for the purpose of examining Western lands for the location of a colony have bought a large tract from the directors of the Atchison Topoka and Santa Fe railroad. The purchase covers 19,000 acres, situated in the vicinity of Halsey, Kan., which is situated at the point where the railroad crosses the Little Arkansas river. It is believed that the Menomonees will eventually purchase a tract six miles in width across the entire belt of forty miles which is covered by the land grant of the railroad. The site will give them control of Halsey. The site selected is said to be in the midst of a good farming country.

Rev. Dr. Newman, who is gathering information on the other side of the world for the American people at an infinitesimal compensation of ten thousand dollars per annum, devotes his latest communication to the Treasury Department to a sorrowful exposure of the wickedness of British manufacturers who are defrauding the honest Chinese with certain fraudulent trade marks upon goods, to the disadvantage of the American trade. Like Mrs. Camp, Dr. Newman "can't abide such dings," and so he is off for Calcutta, to breathe a purer moral atmosphere at the expense of his beloved country.

Centre street New York was crowded yesterday by the idle and curious, gathered to witness the march to the Tombs Police Court, from police headquarters, of two hundred and fifty men and women, boys and girls, arrested the evening before while dancing in a place known as Union Assembly rooms. As the prison pens of the court were not intended for so many persons, the magistrate sent for the warden to the Tombs, and on being informed by that official that he had accommodations for the crowd, all were sent to prison pending investigation of their several cases.

In New York about midnight on Monday a fire broke out on the fourth floor of a five-story building, No. 68 Green street, occupied by Julius Sarnier & Bro., dealers in caps and furs, who also occupied the third and fifth floors. Their loss is \$100,000. The second floor was occupied by Thomas G. Cook & Co. and K. J. Ward, commission houses, who lose \$10,000. The first floor and basement were occupied by Sylvester Bruss & Co., dealers in raw furs, who sustained damage to the extent of \$50,000, while the building, owned by the Lorillard estate, suffered to the extent of \$5,000.

Dr. De Klerck, now in Washington, who has been on a tour of this country in the interests of Dutch capitalists who have invested their money in American railway securities, has suggested to the President the formation of a mixed Commission, consisting partly of Americans and partly of Europeans, to keep the world posted on the value of railroad and other stocks. It is said that President Grant listened with favor to this proposition, and took occasion to express his opposition to the building of railroads in the future by aid of subsidy.

There are now two vacancies in the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute, occasioned by the resignation of President Woolsey and the death of Prof. Agassiz. The former will probably be filled by the election of Prof. Dana, of Yale, and it is suggested that President Eliot, of Harvard, shall be chosen for the other. It is claimed, in opposition to this programme, that the West ought to be represented in the Board, and Dr. Andrews, of Chicago, and Prof. Lequeroux, of Ohio, are mentioned as competent men for the place.

The accounts of the Treasurer of Lavenworth county, Kan., are in confusion, and a committee who have examined them report that that officer is "short" \$69,000. The committee requested of the Treasurer an explanation of the discrepancies, and he replied that he "was unable to say where the money was; that he had none on deposit save what the committee had found, and that he could not remember having loaned any considerable amount of it." He has been requested to resign.

The keeping up the pursuit of Genet in Canada is still continued by the New York Sheriff. It is now said that they have him shut up in one hundred miles of territory, and that he will be recaptured during the week.

A special from Berlin says the project to make the Crown Prince Frederick, William regent has been abandoned in consequence of the improvement in the health of the Emperor William.

CHIEF JUSTICE.—A paragraph is now going the rounds of the newspaper press, stating that a bill has been prepared, and will be presented to Congress after the recess, abolishing the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and providing that the court shall, at each term, elect its own presiding officer from among the Associate Justices. The proposition seems to meet with considerable favor from leading men in and out of Congress. There is no provision in the Constitution concerning the office of Chief Justice except that clause in section 3 of article 1, which says: "When the President of the United States is tried (on impeachment) the Chief Justice shall preside." It is a singular fact that the article of the Constitution (art. 3, sec. 1) which creates the Supreme Court does not mention the office of Chief Justice at all. It is in these words:—"The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme court and in such inferior courts as the Congress may, from time to time, ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior."

It is also a curious fact that article 2, section 2, providing for the appointment of the members of this court, does not mention "Chief Justice." It provides that the President "shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint judges of the Supreme Court." This court is named also in article 1, in which it is provided that Congress shall have power "to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court."—Wash. Chronicle.

FIKE & HATCH.—Among the prominent bankers of New York now stood higher in popular estimation than Fiske and Hatch, the agents of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company. There was a general manifestation of regret when they were compelled to succumb to the pressure. The announcement of their resignation with general satisfaction. They are said to have been not only subjected to many embarrasments from legal proceedings, and that they have not been forced to make ruinous sacrifices. This announcement, apart from being gratifying to all who know this exemplary and widely-trusted firm, is satisfactory in this community because of its favorable influence upon the affairs of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad.—Rich. Dispatch.

Letter from Richmond.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, Dec. 30.—A large number of members of both houses of the Legislature arrived yesterday and to-day; in fact quite a number have spent the holidays here. Besides the members, the thousand and one office seekers are on hand, and there is hardly a place from page up to Speaker for which there is not from four to forty applicants, and the scene at the Exchange and at Ford's last night reminded me of the Baltimore drummers besieging the country merchants as they arrive each spring and autumn to purchase their supplies. All is life and energy; all are anxious for themselves or their friends, and the way each newly arrived member is pinned and tutored before the instant he arrives, is a caution. Well, the agony will soon be over. To-night the caucus of the Conservatives is to meet, but it is not thought that any nominations will be made until tomorrow night, as a large number of the members have yet to arrive. The Speaker, it is generally conceded, will be Marshall Hall, esq., of Augusta, and as Mr. J. Bell Bigger has no opposition, he will, of course, be re-elected clerk of the House. Messrs. Crittenden, Wall, Beason and others are in the field for Sargent-at-Arms. In the Senate the old officers will, in all probability, be re-elected, with perhaps a change in one or two of the door-keepers. There are a large number of aspirants for door-keeper's position, and in the Senate several are after the position of Abram Hall, colored. Over the "basement" offices of course there will be some contest, but of that more anon. The members, generally, are "new men," although many of them have served the State in the Legislature in other days. I think but 27 of the old members of the House of 71-72 have been returned.

Governor-elect Kemper, has been in the city and made the necessary arrangements for his inauguration and occupancy of the gubernatorial mansion. The installation ceremonies will be rather of a private character, the Governor walking to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, where the oath will be administered in the presence of a few, when the Governor will walk to his residence, which, by that time will have been vacated by its present occupant, from whence he will send to the Legislature his message.

The most cordial feeling exists between the outgoing and incoming Governor, and everything has been arranged and in the most pleasant manner.

Gov. Kemper has announced that he will make no appointment of Aid, and that he will recommend to the Legislature the abolition of that office. It is his intention to have only a private secretary, most probably his son, a young man of fine talents. The intention of Gov. Kemper is to return, as far as possible, in the administration of his office, to the ante-bellum customs, thereby ex-raising economy and less ceremony.

The Senatorial question is the all-absorbing topic of interest, and the surmises as to the successful aspirant are as numerous as the individuals named in connection with the position. Most prominently mentioned are John Good, of Norfolk; Jas. Barbour, R. M. T. Hunter, R. E. Withers, T. S. Boone, and Gov. Walker, and at this writing it is hard to determine who is the favorite, each gentleman having warm and earnest friends. It will not be easy to make any accurate calculation as to the "counting man" until the Legislature shall have met and the views of the members been more definitely ascertained.

Prince William County Items.

The following items are taken from the Manassas Gazette:

An industrious farmer living some six miles from this place rode into the village a few days ago, and hitching his horse to one of the trucks, proceeded to attend to his business. A neighboring farmer, seeing him do this, thought of home, and suiting the action to the thought proceeded thitherwards, no doubt anticipating a bright fire, a hot supper and a smiling lady to greet him. With his mind engaged in thoughts of a happy home, and the many little things he bought for Christmas, the subject of our narrative was soon well on his way, unconscious of the little fatigue of his walk, for strange to say he was walking, and did not discover his mistake until on reaching home and going up to the barnyard gate to turn his horse in to his stable, he found his horse, not, as he supposed, in Manassas wondering at the long absence of his master. We mention no name, and for fear a look of suspicion may attach itself to our absent minded friend, we will say he does not drink.

Christmas day in Manassas was spent very quietly, perhaps more so than any holiday occasion for years. Although "justice was done" in the way of eating and drinking, every body acted soberly and the business of the day was the leading feature of the occasion was the "Christmas Tree" at the M. E. Church, under the patronage of the Sunday School of that and the Presbyterian Church. The donation supper at the residence of Rev. Wm. Round, for Rev. Mr. Bain, was very pleasant. A large number of friends gathered at the residence of Geo. Trimmer, esq., was attended by a large number of ladies and gentlemen, and presided over by his accomplished daughters. Most of our citizens kept open houses during the day and received the calls of friends. The Christmas tree at colored school house, gotten up by Mrs. Phoebe Mathewson, was greatly enjoyed by the little ones attached to the Sunday and day schools.

A meteoric explosion occurred about a quarter to eight o'clock on Wednesday night, which has caused quite a sensation throughout the country where it was seen and heard, and is now the subject of considerable comment. Those who witnessed it describe it as a bright, luminous body appearing in the east and flying almost with the swiftness of light westward, when it exploded with a terrific shock, as of an earthquake. Buildings were shaken, and many persons were terrified with fright, supposing that the end had come, and that Gabriel's trumpet was about to sound.

The race on Saturday last between Wm. E. Goodwin's bay horse and A. D. Finch's grey, was won by the former. The weather being rather chilly for field sports, but few people were in attendance. Contrary to expectations, there were no other races run, as the horse expected to be on hand did not put in an appearance.

The ladies of Study Church will give a supper at that place on Tuesday evening, the proceeds to be applied to the liquidation of the debt on the building. The many beautiful ladies who will be there warrants a full attendance of the gentlemen.

A postoffice has been established at Horton's store, in Brentsville township, near the Stafford line, and Meredith Horton appointed postmaster. The corner stone of the new Episcopial church in Manassas was laid with appropriate ceremonies on Tuesday last.

DEATH OF AN OLD CITIZEN.—Mr. Samuel

Vanderlice, died at his residence in Lexington, Va., on last Friday at 1 p. m.

A very large congregation filed the Methodist Church on Sunday at the funeral services. Rev. Mr. Clarke, gave a sketch of the life of Mr. Vanderlice which was considered a just estimate of the character, though the words would have been fitting to but few men in any community. It was not easy to overdraw an account of the upright conduct, the intelligent christian zeal, and the many sterling virtues of this excellent man.

He had resided in Lexington nearly thirty years, and in all those years his integrity was never questioned; no stain soiled his christian life and his efforts in every good word and work never flagged. His end was peace.

One of the largest assemblages ever gathered in our community followed his remains to the tomb. The Masons were pall-bearers and gave him burial after their ceremony.—Lexington Va. Gazette.

WOMEN'S MEETING.—The Women's Social Education Society held its regular meeting yesterday at Pimpton Hall, Mrs. Caroline A. Soule, the president, in the chair. The discussion of a paper read at a previous meeting by Mrs. Dr. Baker, was the first business in order. Its subject was the necessity of truthfulness in women in social life. The President said the propositions in the paper were so self-evident that there was not room for much discussion. She thought that ladies ought always to tell the truth under all circumstances. It was a very sad thing that they were so much given to what were generally considered white lies. These generally do no good to anybody but hurt the women who were at home.

Mrs. Kent thought that ladies ought to be educated into courage enough to tell their servants to say they were engaged and could not see any one. A fear that they might offend their friends by such a message was the reason for this common social truth, but if it could be commonly accepted in society that this lie was an enormity she did not think that any one would take offense if the truth was told and an audience denied.

Mrs. Miller agreed with the first speaker, and thought that a reform in this respect could be effected without any great social revolution. A lady present said mothers must be educated to the fact that the welfare of their children demands that at all times they should be truthful. Only in this way could they expect their children to be truthful and respectful.

Mrs. Brown admitted the evil complained of that women were a sad set of story tellers, but she would like to hear from the ladies present the best way of curing this evil.

Mrs. Wolfe thought that the best way was to educate their conscience. The Chair remarked that it should be said of women, as it was of men—sometimes, that their word was as good as their bond.

Mrs. Brown thought the subject was taking a low range. There were other falsehoods besides the one which so much distress had been spoken of, a lady saying she was out when she was in. They were all living in an atmosphere of falsehood, and she would like to know if there was not some way of reaching this evil and correcting it so that the average woman would cease to lie.

Another lady said another common falsehood practiced by woman was inviting to their homes people whom they did not want and whom they would much rather not accept the invitation.

Several ladies present disclaimed this, and said that they were never guilty of it.

Mrs. Wolfe thought that there were other falsehoods besides those of the tongue. Many women lived falsely by attempting to dress beyond their means. The woman whose husband had an income of a thousand dollars a year strained every nerve to dress as well as the woman whose husband had no money to spare, and "and," said she, "they do it some way, but it is by terrible straining."

The debate was here closed.

THE DEATH OF COL. SPALDING.—Yesterday morning Mr. Henry K. Atkinson, Commonwealth's Attorney for Henrico, had occasion to go into the grand jury room of the county court-house, and was horrified to discover the body of Col. G. A. Spalding sitting stiff in death upon one of the benches. The body was in a sitting position as before stated, the left hand clutching the seat of the bench and the right firmly clenched. Over the knees was thrown the overcoat of the deceased. His shoes were placed upon the bench some three or four feet from him. His hat was in the window just in the rear of him, and upon the floor lay his cane, a biscuit and a piece of sausage. In front of the fire-place were two chairs tattered and old. To the left of him, in the corner of the bench, was a bundle of papers literally cloaked with dust. A second bundle, which was his head had rested upon them, while his head was one mass of bruised blood. The corner was immediately notified and summoned a jury. There was no evidence in or about the building of a struggle having taken place, and there is no reason to suppose that any one bore ill will towards the deceased. Col. Spalding was last seen Friday morning. He was a lawyer by profession, a native of this city, and during the war served as lieutenant colonel of a Confederate regiment raised in West Virginia. For the last few years he had been quite dissipated, and was in the habit of sleeping about the court house.—Rich. Enquirer.

WASHINGTON NEWS.—Last night three roughs entered the restaurant of Mr. Hile, a German, on Delaware avenue, northeast, and asked for drinks. Being refused they assaulted and beat the wife of Hile, and he in response to her cries for help entered the bar-room with a double-barrelled shot-gun, one load of which he discharged. The contents struck his wife in the back of the head, killing her instantly. The roughs then fled, he pursuing, and firing the other load, wounding one of them in the shoulder. Hile then went to the Station and gave himself up. The assailants were arrested.

General B. J. Sweet, first deputy commissioner of internal revenue, was lying at the point of death yesterday evening at his residence in this city. He was taken ill with pneumonia about a week since, but on Saturday last he had so greatly improved that it was believed by his physicians and friends that all danger had passed. On Sunday, however, he had a relapse of the disease, and on yesterday all hopes of his recovery were given up.

The Christmas holidays have always been in this District most provocative to matrimony, being in this respect to winter what the month of May is in the warmer season. During the holidays this year sixty-four marriage licenses have been granted.

CALIB CUSHING.—This gentleman has been named as successor to Sickles. The whole country knows who Caleb Cushing is, and knowing his democratic views and predilections, people generally will be surprised at his appointment to the Spanish court. Mr. Cushing was born in Salisbury, Essex county, Massachusetts, in 1800, and is consequently verging on 74 years. He has been in public life since his 25th year, and from all appearances on his back, Under president Tyler he was Commissioner to China, and under Polk was a brigadier-general in the Mexican war. After a tour through Europe in 1829, he wrote "Reminiscences of Spain," for which country he has ever had a warm admiration. A more versatile genius, or a man of stranger vicissitudes and of more general reputation, has perhaps never appeared in public life in America, and he is quite a favorite with all parties.—Rich. Enquirer.

A PHILADELPHIA STEAMER, square built, and adapted to canal navigation, arrived here last week with coal. Having discharged her cargo, she moved up to Slaughter's wharf and loaded partially with fire from the Excelsior mills. Her capacity is from 1,500 to 2,000 barrels. She also took on board a lot of staves from Hucksamp's manufactory. The steamer is the "William Baxter," the same that successfully demonstrated steam navigation on the New York canal, and for which a prize of \$100,000 was offered by the New York Legislature.—Fredericksburg Herald.

HEAVY SNOW STORM IN WEST VIRGINIA.—The Wheeling Intelligencer of yesterday says: "On Saturday and Sunday night we were visited by the first genuine snow storm we have had this winter. Sleighs were out for the first time in these many days. Up in the mountains we are told the fall of snow was very heavy, having materially impeded the running of the trains on the railroads. On Cheat mountain the snow is fifteen inches deep."

THE "VIRGINIA".—The Baltimore American says: "The general supposition that the owner of the Virginia would permit the vessel to be condemned in the Courts rather than incur the penalty for violation of the neutrality laws by appearing to claim the ship, is contradicted by a letter from John F. Patterson, of New York, in which he declares that he is the registered owner of the steamer, and that he means to stand up to his rights and privileges as such. Mr. Patterson seems prepared to meet the testimony upon which Attorney General Williams decided the Virginia to be of foreign ownership and not American register to have been obtained by fraud. He will soon have a chance of settling this question, as the Government will institute legal proceedings in which the whole case will be reviewed. But if Mr. Patterson succeeds in proving his lawful and indisputable property in the ship, what becomes of Mr. Williams' decision upon which the requirement of the salute to the flag by Spain was omitted? Mr. Caleb Cushing is credited with the authorship of an article in the last issue of the Washington Capital, in which this decision is criticized. Mr. Cushing argues that if the Attorney General was right in his opinion that the Virginia was not entitled to her American papers or to carry the colors, this Government had nothing to do with her but to abandon her and her people to their fate."

ORPHAN SCHOOLS.—We understand that the two Asylums of Fredericksburg are again the recipients of handsome donations from the Association for the Benefit of the Widows and Orphans of the Southern States. C. Q. Tompkins, the managing agent of said Association, has lately transmitted \$380 to Senator Charles Hendon to be divided between the Female Orphan Asylum, and the Female Charity School of Fredericksburg.—Fredericksburg News.

The weather turned very cold last night.

COMMERCIAL.

ALEXANDRIA MARKET, Dec. 30.—Receipts of Wheat are light, and the market is quiet and unchanged; offerings of 232 bushels red, with sales at 152, 160 and 165 for to good samples. Corn is quiet and steady, offerings of 1286 bushels mixed, with sales at 88, 90, 92 and 93. Oats are unchanged; sales at 30, with offerings of 380 bushels.

PENNSYLVANIA COAL TRADE.—It is worth noting that the higher prices that have prevailed have not prevented an increase in shipment. The trade is fairly active for the season, though, of course, light, and is unchanged in feature. We state that on Christmas eve "all the colliers" were at the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company's siding, for the purpose of securing coal, and were in a large portion of the cars, as the orders on hand were generally supplied. The trade may be considered as virtually suspended from the Schuylkill region, so far as shipments to Port Richmond are concerned, and will therefore be confined to the wants of the line and those markets reached by the cars during the winter season. At Port Richmond for a week on the 27th instant the receipts of coal were 30,000 tons, the shipment 25,000 tons, leaving 50,000 tons on hand.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Boston Globe says that a view of the best and shrewdest business of that city for the year just closing showed a very startling result. So withstanding the destruction by the great fire, the loss of over seventy-five thousand cases of goods, valued at \$2,500,000, the unsettling of values and the disarranging of business generally, the dear money market during nearly all the first half of the year and the financial panic of September, the trade was in a very satisfactory condition. For a time it looked dolefully blue, but dealers bore up bravely and weathered the storm and disaster.

[Markets by Telegraph.]

New York, December 30.—Shackles, 2000; Corn, 1000; Flour, 1000; Wheat, 1000; Cotton, 1000; Sugar, 1000; Coffee, 1000; Tea, 1000; Rice, 1000; Beans, 1000; Peas, 1000; Lentils, 1000; Mustard, 1000; Spices, 1000; Oils, 1000; Vinegar, 1000; Soap, 1000; Candles, 1000; Paper, 1000; Books, 1000; Stationery, 1000; Toys, 1000; Games, 1000; Clothing, 1000; Furniture, 1000; Household Goods, 1000; Miscellaneous, 1000.

BALTIMORE, December 30.—Virginia sixes, 100; Virginia eights, 100; Virginia tens, 100; Virginia twelves, 100; Virginia fourteens, 100; Virginia sixteens, 100; Virginia eighteens, 100; Virginia twenties